

East Midlands

183. The East Midlands currently has 46 constituencies. Of these constituencies, 24 have electorates within the permitted electorate range. The electorates of 19 constituencies currently fall below the permitted electorate range, while the electorates of three constituencies are above. Our proposals reduce the number of constituencies in the region by two, to 44.
184. The East Midlands comprises the counties of Derbyshire (including the City of Derby), Leicestershire (including the City of Leicester and County of Rutland), Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, and Nottinghamshire (including the City of Nottingham), and is covered by a mix of district and county councils, and unitary authorities.
185. We appointed two assistant commissioners for the East Midlands — Scott Handley and Ashraf Khan — to assist us with the analysis of the representations received during the first two consultation periods. This included chairing public hearings, which were held in the region in order to hear oral evidence direct from the public. The dates and locations of these hearings were:
- Derby: 27–28 October 2016
 - Northampton: 31 October–1 November 2016
 - Lincoln: 3–4 November 2016.

Sub-division of the region

186. In formulating our initial proposals, we noted that the electorate of the East Midlands of 3,275,046 results in it being entitled to 44 constituencies, a reduction of two. We then considered how this number of constituencies could be split across the region.
187. We noted that Lincolnshire's electorate of just over 521,000 results in an entitlement of 6.97 constituencies. We therefore decided to allocate the county seven constituencies and treated it as a sub-region. Similarly, we noted that the City of Derby and Derbyshire have a combined electorate of 756,550, which results in an entitlement of 10.12 constituencies. We therefore decided to allocate 10 constituencies to Derbyshire and Derby, a reduction of one, and treat it as a sub-region.
188. The combined electorate of Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham is just over 769,000, which results in the area being entitled to 10.29 constituencies, which would be a reduction of one. The combined electorate of Leicestershire, the City of Leicester and Rutland is nearly 735,000, resulting in an entitlement of 9.83 constituencies. In formulating our initial proposals we decided to continue to include Rutland in a constituency with parts of Leicestershire rather than include it in a constituency with parts of Northamptonshire.
189. The electorate of Northamptonshire is nearly 494,000, which results in an entitlement of 6.60 constituencies. We noted that this entitlement of constituencies meant that it was not possible to propose a sub-region consisting solely of Northamptonshire and that it would be necessary to propose a constituency that crossed county boundaries. Given the location of Northamptonshire in the southern part of the East Midlands region, we considered that it could only possibly

be linked with Leicestershire. We considered that the Nottinghamshire (including the City of Nottingham) entitlement of 10.29 constituencies may not allow for the best allocation of constituencies, and therefore proposed a sub-region of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire (including Rutland), and Northamptonshire. This sub-region was allocated 27 constituencies.

190. The use of the sub-regions outlined above was largely supported during the consultation on the initial proposals. We did receive some objections to the split of sub-regions with alternative arrangements suggested as:
- a sub-region which comprised the areas of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Northamptonshire
 - a sub-region which comprised the areas of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, and Nottinghamshire, and a further sub-region that comprised the areas of Northamptonshire and Rutland.
191. We also received proposals from some respondents that suggested crossing the regional boundary between Yorkshire and the Humber, and the East Midlands. These proposals largely focused on reconfiguring constituencies in the Grimsby area. We also received a proposal to cross the regional boundary between the South East and the East Midlands, in order to reconfigure constituencies in Milton Keynes.
192. In formulating our revised proposals, we considered that compelling evidence had not been received to propose constituencies that crossed the regional boundaries. We also considered that no persuasive evidence had been received to propose alternative sub-regions. Our revised proposals were, therefore, based on the same sub-regions as those of our initial proposals.
193. In response to our revised proposals, we did not receive any further evidence that would justify crossing the regional boundary of the East Midlands, nor the use of alternative sub-regions. Therefore, the sub-regions we propose as part of the final recommendations are:
- Lincolnshire
 - Derbyshire and Derby
 - Leicestershire, Leicester, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, and Rutland.

Lincolnshire

Initial proposals

194. Of the seven existing constituencies in Lincolnshire, four are currently within the permitted electorate range. Under our initial proposals, we proposed to retain two existing constituencies: Gainsborough, and South Holland and The Deepings. Additionally, we proposed to retain the existing constituencies of Grantham and Stamford, and Louth and Horncastle, with minor modifications to reflect changes to local government ward boundaries.
195. The existing constituencies of Lincoln, and Boston and Skegness both fall below the permitted electorate range and the existing constituency of Sleaford and North Hykeham is above the permitted electorate range. As part of our initial proposals, we proposed that the five wards

comprising the town of North Hykeham and the Waddington West ward be included in the Lincoln constituency. We also proposed that the Bracebridge Heath and Waddington East ward be included in our proposed Sleaford constituency, and that the wards of Heckington Rural, and Kirkby la Thorpe and South Kyme be included in our proposed Boston and Skegness constituency.

Consultation on the initial proposals

196. In response to the consultation on the initial proposals, our proposed constituencies of Gainsborough, Louth and Horncastle, Grantham and Stamford, South Holland and The Deepings, and Boston and Skegness were largely supported. The main focus of opposition was to our proposed Lincoln and Sleaford constituencies, with representations focusing on which wards should be included in the Lincoln constituency.
197. We received a number of alternatives to the proposed Lincoln and Sleaford constituencies including:
- that the Waddington West ward should be included in the Sleaford constituency due to links that this ward has with the Bracebridge Heath area
 - that the North Hykeham area be included in the Sleaford constituency, and the two wards of Waddington West, and Heighington and Washingborough be included in the Lincoln constituency.
198. These counter-proposals and our initial proposals were both supported and opposed by different respondents. Having considered the written and oral evidence, our assistant commissioners visited the Lincoln, and Sleaford and North Hykeham constituencies in order to observe the areas themselves, in relation to the arguments that had been made. Our conclusion, based on the advice provided by our assistant commissioners, was that the North Hykeham area had close links to Lincoln.

Revised proposals

199. Our revised proposals for Lincolnshire were, therefore, identical to those put forward in our initial proposals, including the names of the seven constituencies.

Consultation on the revised proposals

200. In response to the consultation on the revised proposals, we continued to receive support for our proposed constituencies in Lincolnshire, including support for our proposed Lincoln constituency.
201. We received some objection to the inclusion of the Kirkby la Thorpe and South Kyme, and Heckington Rural wards in the proposed Boston and Skegness constituency. These wards are currently in the existing Sleaford and North Hykeham constituency and some respondents expressed the view that the wards should remain there, due to their local council and health services being based in Sleaford. We note that making this change would require consequential changes to other constituencies in the sub-region, including those that are otherwise unchanged.
202. One respondent suggested that North Hykeham should not be included in the Lincoln constituency, but that if North Hykeham were to be included in the Lincoln constituency then the name of the constituency should reflect its inclusion.

Final recommendations

203. Having considered the evidence received, we are not persuaded to amend the boundaries of any of our proposed constituencies in Lincolnshire. We do not consider that any further compelling or new evidence has been provided that might justify changing the constitution of our revised constituencies. We do, however, accept that the inclusion of North Hykeham with Lincoln in a constituency should be reflected in the constituency name, given that North Hykeham is part of a neighbouring local authority (North Kesteven), and makes up a significant part of the constituency. Our final recommendations in this sub-region are for constituencies of: Boston and Skegness, Gainsborough, Grantham and Stamford, Lincoln and North Hykeham, Louth and Horncastle, Sleaford, and South Holland and The Deepings. These constituencies are listed in Volume two and shown on the maps in Volume three of this report.

Derbyshire and Derby

Initial proposals

204. Of the existing 11 constituencies in Derbyshire, three are currently within the permitted electorate range: Chesterfield, High Peak, and South Derbyshire. The other eight constituencies all fall below the permitted electorate range. Under our initial proposals, we proposed that the High Peak constituency be retained completely unchanged. We proposed minor modifications to the Chesterfield constituency to include the Barrow Hill and New Whittington ward, and minor changes to the Erewash constituency to include the Ockbrook & Borrowash ward.
205. We proposed more significant changes to the other constituencies in Derbyshire. We proposed a Derbyshire Dales constituency, which included five wards from North East Derbyshire district, a Bolsover and Dronfield constituency, which included 11 wards from North East Derbyshire district, the Lowgates and Woodthorpe ward of Chesterfield borough, and 16 wards from Bolsover district. Our Alfreton and Clay Cross constituency included nine wards from North East Derbyshire district, seven from Amber Valley borough, and four from Bolsover district. To the south we proposed an Amber Valley constituency that included 13 wards from Amber Valley borough, two from Erewash borough and the Allestree ward from the City of Derby.
206. In the City of Derby, we proposed constituencies of Derby North and Derby South. The Derby North constituency consisted of eight wards of the City of Derby. The Derby South constituency comprised seven wards of the City of Derby and the Aston ward from South Derbyshire district. The remaining wards of South Derbyshire district formed our South Derbyshire constituency, in which we also included the City of Derby ward of Mickleover.

Consultation on the initial proposals

207. In response to the consultation on our initial proposals, we received some support for our proposed constituencies in Derbyshire. We received opposition to the initial proposals dividing North East Derbyshire district between three constituencies, and the division of Bolsover district between two constituencies. Respondents particularly opposed the division of the town of Dronfield between the Bolsover and Dronfield, and Derbyshire Dales constituencies. We received a number of counter-proposals that proposed a North East Derbyshire constituency that was coterminous with the district and therefore would not divide Dronfield between constituencies. This counter-proposal would require a series of modifications to neighbouring constituencies.

One respondent proposed a Bolsover constituency that included all wards from Bolsover district, the Lowgates and Woodthorpe ward from Chesterfield borough, and three wards from Amber Valley borough.

208. We also received different counter-proposals for our proposed Derbyshire Dales constituency. Some respondents considered that the Derbyshire Dales district wards of Bradwell, Hathersage and Eyam, and Tideswell should be included in the High Peak constituency. This was objected to by some respondents on the basis that the proposed High Peak constituency was unchanged and was coterminous with its local authority area. Other consequential changes were proposed for the Derbyshire Dales constituency. Some respondents considered that it should include the wards covering the town of Belper, whereas others suggested it should include the City of Derby ward of Allestree.
209. The proposed Derby North and Derby South constituencies were also objected to. Respondents considered that the names did not reflect the east and west configuration of the constituencies. Additionally, some respondents considered that the Derwent ward should be included in a Derby East constituency and the Sinfen ward in the Derby West constituency. Supporters of this counter-proposal considered that it united the Chaddesden community in the Derby East constituency. We also received objection to the inclusion of the South Derbyshire district ward of Aston in the proposed Derby South constituency. Respondents considered that the ward was rural in nature and separated from Derby by the A50. However, we did also receive some support for our proposed South Derbyshire constituency.

Revised proposals

210. In light of the representations received, our assistant commissioners recommended that we modify our initial proposals for Derbyshire. We considered that the evidence demonstrating that Dronfield should not be divided between constituencies was persuasive, and as part of our revised proposals we proposed a North East Derbyshire constituency that was coterminous with the district. We also proposed a Bolsover constituency that contained all the wards from Bolsover district so that it would not be divided between constituencies, and were persuaded by the counter-proposal that it should also include three wards from Amber Valley borough.
211. We were not persuaded by evidence to modify the existing High Peak constituency. Therefore, in light of other changes, we considered alternative patterns of constituencies for Derbyshire Dales and Amber Valley. Some respondents suggested that the City of Derby ward of Allestree should be included in the Derbyshire Dales constituency, whereas others proposed that the town of Belper should be included in the constituency. We noted that the latter counter-proposal would result in Amber Valley borough being divided between three constituencies.
212. Having considered the written and oral evidence, our assistant commissioners visited the constituencies in order to observe the areas themselves, in relation to the arguments that had been made. They observed that the Allestree ward was on the urban fringe of the City of Derby and that it had poor road links going west into the Derbyshire Dales constituency. They observed that Belper had good road links in all directions and noted its similarities to other mill towns located along the A6 and River Derwent. Our conclusion, based on the advice provided by our assistant commissioners was that the four wards comprising Belper be included in our Derbyshire Dales constituency and Allestree be included in our Amber Valley constituency under our revised proposal.

213. We considered the alternative proposals put forward in the City of Derby and decided to modify our initial proposals. We proposed Derby East and Derby West constituencies, with Derby East to include the Derwent ward which reflected the evidence received regarding the Chaddesden area, and our proposed Derby West constituency to include the Sinfin ward.
214. We did not propose any changes to our initial proposals for Chesterfield, Erewash, and South Derbyshire. We noted the concerns regarding Aston ward not being included in a South Derbyshire constituency but considered that the reconfigurations required were too significant.

Consultation on the revised proposals

215. In response to the consultation on our revised proposals we received support for our constituencies of North East Derbyshire, Bolsover, High Peak, Derby East, Derby West, and South Derbyshire. We did receive some opposition to the other constituencies in the sub-region.
216. Some respondents opposed the Amber Valley constituency. This included opposition from Dale Abbey parish, with respondents proposing that the area be included in the Erewash constituency. A petition signed by 145 individuals supported this modification. We noted that Dale Abbey parish is located in the West Hallam & Dale Abbey ward and that respondents did not suggest that the whole ward be included in the Erewash constituency, as this would result in both the Amber Valley and Erewash constituencies being outside the permitted electorate range. Instead respondents considered that the ward could be divided between constituencies and highlighted the cultural, historical and social links the village of Dale Abbey has with Stanton-by-Dale and Ilkeston.
217. Opposition to the Derbyshire Dales constituency largely focused on whether it should include the town of Belper. Some respondents considered that Belper had close links with the areas of Ripley, Heanor and Loscoe and therefore should be included in the Amber Valley constituency. Advocates of this counter-proposal suggested that the Allestree ward should be included in the Derbyshire Dales constituency. Some opposition was also received to the split of the four wards that make up the Alfreton and Somercotes county electoral division (Alfreton, Ironville and Riddings, Somercotes, and Swanwick) between the proposed Amber Valley and Bolsover constituencies. Respondents indicated that the Ironville and Riddings ward should be included in the Bolsover constituency in order to unite all of the Alfreton and Somercotes county electoral division in one constituency and not divide the Leabrooks area between constituencies. Should it prove necessary to include one of these four wards in Amber Valley, the counter-proposal suggested that the Swanwick ward would be the more appropriate candidate to be placed in Amber Valley, and not Ironville and Riddings.

Final recommendations

218. Having considered the evidence received, we are not recommending any changes to the boundaries of our revised proposals for Derbyshire. We note the evidence regarding whether Belper or Allestree should be included in the Derbyshire Dales constituency and continue to consider that Allestree should not be included in this constituency given the poor road connections and difference in nature of the areas. We also note the support for our proposed Amber Valley and Derbyshire Dales constituencies.
219. We are also not persuaded by the evidence regarding the split of the Alfreton and Somercotes area between constituencies. We consider that it is not clear from the evidence what comprises

the Leabrooks area and note that it is divided by ward boundaries. Additionally, we are not persuaded that the Swanwick ward should be included in the Amber Valley constituency, and are of the view that this change is not supported by evidence relating to local ties. As noted above, some respondents suggested that the West Hallam & Dale Abbey ward should be divided between the Erewash and Amber Valley constituencies so that the Dale Abbey village could be included in the Erewash constituency. We do not consider that this proposal meets our exceptional and compelling threshold to divide a ward (set out in the first chapter) and, therefore, do not propose any modifications to the constituencies.

220. We did receive some representations regarding the names of our constituencies in Derbyshire. Alternative constituency names mainly focused on the inclusion of other town areas in constituency names. Given that most of the names of our proposed constituencies in the sub-region reflect the names of existing constituencies, we have decided not to modify the names of our revised proposal constituencies.
221. Our final recommendations in this sub-region are for constituencies of: Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derby East, Derby West, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, High Peak, North East Derbyshire, and South Derbyshire. These constituencies are listed in Volume two and shown on the maps in Volume three of this report.

Leicestershire, Leicester, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, and Rutland

222. Under the initial proposals we proposed two cross-county boundary constituencies: a Loughborough and Rushcliffe South constituency which crossed the boundaries of Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, and a Daventry and Lutterworth constituency which crossed the boundaries of Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. As noted above in the report, we do not propose to modify this sub-region, therefore our final recommendations will continue to propose two cross-county boundary constituencies. These are detailed later in this section.

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham

Initial proposals

223. Of the 11 existing constituencies in Nottinghamshire, six are currently within 5% of the electoral quota, while the other five constituencies all fall below the permitted electorate range. Under our initial proposals we proposed to retain the existing constituencies of Mansfield and Bassetlaw completely unchanged. We also proposed an Ashfield constituency which was only changed to reflect new local government boundaries.
224. Our proposed Newark constituency included the Ollerton and Boughton wards and reflected changes to local government boundaries. We proposed a Sherwood constituency that included the Lowdham and Dover Beck wards and the Gedling borough wards that comprise the town of Arnold and reflected the new local government ward boundaries.
225. In formulating the initial proposals, we noted that the existing Nottingham constituencies were all significantly below the permitted electorate range. We therefore decided to expand these constituencies while trying to respect the River Trent, which we considered represented a physical

boundary in the area. We proposed a Nottingham South and Beeston constituency that included six wards from the City of Nottingham and seven wards from Broxtowe borough, including the town of Beeston. Our Nottingham East and Carlton constituency comprised four wards from the City of Nottingham and eight wards from Gedling borough, including the town of Carlton. Our Nottingham North constituency comprised only wards from Nottingham City but did not include the Bilborough ward, which we proposed be included in a reconfigured Broxtowe and Hucknall constituency, which consisted of wards from three local authorities.

226. To the south of Nottingham, we proposed a West Bridgford constituency that included 16 wards from Rushcliffe borough, including the town of West Bridgford, and the Nottingham city wards of Clifton North and Clifton South. The remaining wards of Rushcliffe borough were included in our proposed cross-county boundary constituency of Loughborough and Rushcliffe South.

Consultation on the initial proposals

227. In response to the consultation on our initial proposals, our decision to retain the Mansfield and Bassetlaw constituencies completely unchanged was supported, although we did receive some alternative proposals for the Bassetlaw constituency. Our proposed Ashfield constituency was also largely supported by respondents.
228. We received some opposition to our proposed constituencies of Newark and Sherwood. Some respondents opposed the inclusion of the Ollerton and Boughton wards in the Newark constituency rather than Sherwood, and the exclusion of the East Bridgford ward from the Newark constituency. Some counter-proposals received sought to address these concerns by also including the Farnsfield ward in the Newark constituency along with the Lowdham and Dover Beck wards.
229. In the City of Nottingham area, we received significant opposition to the inclusion of the Nottingham city ward of Bilborough in the proposed Broxtowe and Hucknall constituency. Respondents considered that the ward should be included in either the Nottingham North or the proposed Nottingham South and Beeston constituency. Some counter-proposals resolved including Bilborough in a Nottingham constituency by reconfiguring nearly all constituencies in the sub-region, whereas some counter-proposals suggested modifications to the proposed Nottingham South and Beeston, and Broxtowe and Hucknall constituencies.
230. We received a mixture of support for and opposition to the inclusion of the Clifton North and Clifton South wards in our proposed West Bridgford constituency. Those supporting this proposal indicated that the River Trent was a boundary in the area and that the Clifton and West Bridgford areas shared ties both economically and socially. Those opposing the proposal considered that Clifton was more directly linked with Nottingham city centre and that public transport routes reflected these ties. Some respondents submitted counter-proposals that included the two Clifton wards in a Nottingham constituency. We noted that these proposals would result in modifications to most constituencies in Nottinghamshire, including the constituency that crossed the county boundary between Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.

Revised proposals

231. We noted that the Ashfield, Bassetlaw, and Mansfield constituencies had all been supported and therefore decided not to amend these constituencies when formulating our revised proposals. We

considered that persuasive evidence had been received to include Bilborough in a Nottingham constituency and investigated alternatives. We were not persuaded to include the ward in a Nottingham North constituency as this resulted in a number of modifications being required to constituencies in the sub-region. In our revised proposals, we therefore decided to include the Bilborough ward in the proposed Nottingham South and Beeston constituency. Consequently, we proposed that the Toton & Chilwell Meadows and Chilwell West wards be included in the Broxtowe and Hucknall constituency. We noted concerns that this would divide the Chilwell area between constituencies but were mindful that this proposal had significantly less knock-on effect to other constituencies. Therefore, we also decided not to modify our proposed Nottingham North, and Nottingham East and Carlton constituencies.

232. As noted above, we received a series of different configurations for the Sherwood and Newark constituencies. We were persuaded by evidence received to include the Ollerton and Boughton wards in the Sherwood constituency and the Lowdham, Dover Beck, Farnsfield, and East Bridgford wards in the Newark constituency. Having considered the written and oral evidence, our assistant commissioners visited the constituencies in order to observe the areas themselves, in relation to the arguments that had been made. They observed the apparent geographical bottleneck created in the town of Rainworth by including the Farnsfield ward in the Newark constituency. Our conclusion, based on the advice provided by our assistant commissioners, was that the apparent issue of a bottleneck was not supported by their observations and that the Sherwood constituency retained good road links.
233. In addition to the modification of our West Bridgford constituency (to no longer include the East Bridgford ward), we proposed that this constituency be named North Rushcliffe. We also proposed modifications to the cross-county boundary constituency of Loughborough and Rushcliffe South, which are detailed in the Leicestershire section below.

Consultation on the revised proposals

234. In response to the consultation on our revised proposals, we received some support for our revised proposals, including the modifications made to the Newark and Sherwood constituencies and to the inclusion of the Bilborough ward in the proposed Nottingham South and Beeston constituency. However, this proposal was also objected to by some respondents who considered that it resulted in the division of the Chilwell area, which they considered would negatively impact the local ties and representation of the area.
235. We again received opposition to the inclusion of the Clifton North and Clifton South wards in the proposed North Rushcliffe constituency. Some respondents considered that the Clifton area has no links with the other areas in the constituency and that it was fundamentally different in character. We received some counter-proposals that sought to include the Clifton wards in a constituency based mainly in the City of Nottingham. These counter-proposals were similar to those suggested during previous consultations and would result in significant modifications to constituencies in Nottinghamshire.
236. We also received a counter-proposal that suggested the Trent Valley ward of Gedling borough be included in the Nottingham East and Carlton constituency. The proponent of this modification indicated that changes to other constituencies as part of the revised proposals resulted in the Trent Valley ward no longer having any road connections with the Sherwood constituency. Some respondents suggested that a more appropriate title for the Nottingham South and Beeston

constituency would be Nottingham West and Beeston, given the orientation of the constituency. We noted that this counter-proposal did not require any other consequential changes to either the Nottingham East and Carlton or Sherwood constituencies. We also received some opposition to the proposed cross-county boundary constituency, which is detailed in the Leicestershire section below.

Final recommendations

237. We have considered the evidence received and are not making changes to the boundaries of our proposed constituencies of Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe and Hucknall, Newark, North Rushcliffe, Nottingham North, and Nottingham South and Beeston. We recognise the opposition received regarding the inclusion of the Clifton area in the North Rushcliffe constituency, but consider that the counter-proposals resulted in significant changes to other constituencies that had largely been supported. Similarly, we note the concerns regarding the division of Chilwell between constituencies and we did investigate alternative proposals. We considered whether to revert to our initial proposals, but noted the support we had received for including the Bilborough ward in the Nottingham South and Beeston constituency. However, we do propose to modify the names of the Nottingham South and Beeston, and North Rushcliffe constituencies. We are renaming the Nottingham South and Beeston constituency as Nottingham West and Beeston to better reflect the orientation of the constituency. We recognise that the Clifton wards form a large part of the electorate of the North Rushcliffe constituency and are not part of Rushcliffe borough, and therefore are renaming this constituency North Rushcliffe and Clifton.
238. We are not modifying our proposed Nottingham East and Carlton, and Sherwood constituencies. We are persuaded by evidence received that the inclusion of the Trent Valley ward in the Nottingham East and Carlton constituency would better reflect the transport links in this area and have therefore decided to include this change in our final recommendations.
239. Our final recommendations for Nottinghamshire are for constituencies of: Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe and Hucknall, Mansfield, Newark, North Rushcliffe and Clifton, Nottingham East and Carlton, Nottingham North, Nottingham West and Beeston, and Sherwood. These constituencies are listed in Volume two and shown on the maps in Volume three of this report.

Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland

Initial proposals

240. We noted that the electorate of Rutland at 27,355 meant that Rutland had to be included in a constituency with parts of another county. Given that Rutland has previously been included with Leicestershire for the purpose of constructing constituencies, we suggested in our initial proposals that the association of Rutland with Leicestershire should be maintained. At present, Leicestershire (including the City of Leicester and Rutland) has 10 constituencies. Of these, nine are within the permitted electorate range, with Leicester West being below the permitted electorate range. Under our initial proposals, we proposed to retain the existing Leicester East and Leicester South constituencies completely unchanged. We proposed that the Leicester West constituency include three Blaby district wards to bring it within the permitted electorate range, and proposed modifications to all other constituencies.

241. We proposed a North West Leicestershire constituency that included the two wards covering the town of Shepshed, but did not include the five wards from the existing constituency along the southern edge of North West Leicestershire district. We included these five wards in our proposed Bosworth constituency. We proposed a Charnwood constituency that included three wards from Hinckley and Bosworth borough and 12 wards from Charnwood borough. The remainder of Charnwood borough was divided between three other constituencies — the proposed Loughborough and Rushcliffe South, North West Leicestershire, and Rutland and Melton constituencies. The wards covering the area of Loughborough were included in the cross-county boundary Loughborough and Rushcliffe South constituency, and the East Goscote and Queniborough wards were included in our proposed Rutland and Melton constituency, which also included all wards that comprise the local authorities of Melton borough and Rutland.
242. To the south of the City of Leicester, our initial proposals were for a South Leicestershire constituency which included all but three wards that comprise Blaby district and seven wards from Harborough district. The remaining Harborough wards were divided between two other constituencies. The wards covering the town of Market Harborough were included in a Harborough constituency with all the wards that comprise the Oadby and Wigston borough. The other Harborough district wards, including those covering the town of Lutterworth, were included in the proposed cross-county boundary constituency of Daventry and Lutterworth.

Consultation on the initial proposals

243. In response to the consultation on the initial proposals, our decision to retain the existing constituencies of Leicester East and Leicester South was largely supported. There was also support for our proposed Leicester West constituency, which was altered by the addition of the three wards that comprise the town of Braunstone, in order to bring its electorate within the permitted range. However, we did receive opposition and counter-proposals for other constituencies in Leicestershire.
244. We received opposition to our proposed North West Leicestershire constituency, with respondents suggesting that the existing North West Leicestershire constituency should be retained as this would be coterminous with the district and enable for a better pattern of constituencies elsewhere in the county. Respondents noted that retaining the existing North West Leicestershire constituency would require consequential changes to the constituencies of Bosworth, Charnwood, and Loughborough and Rushcliffe South.
245. One counter-proposal was received that suggested that the Hinckley and Bosworth borough ward of Ratby, Bagworth and Thornton should be included in the Bosworth constituency, with the wards covering Shepshed being included in a Loughborough and Keyworth constituency along with The Wolds ward. Under this counter-proposal the Barrow and Sileby West, and Quorn and Mountsorrel Castle wards were included in the Charnwood constituency. Advocates of this configuration considered that the Mountsorrel area would not be divided between constituencies and that the counter-proposal resulted in improvements to the cross-county boundary constituency.
246. We also received a counter-proposal that proposed changes to the constituencies of Bosworth, Charnwood, Loughborough and Rushcliffe South, South Leicestershire, Harborough, Rutland and Melton, North West Leicestershire, and the cross-county boundary constituency of Daventry and Lutterworth. This counter-proposal suggested different wards be included in the Daventry

and Lutterworth constituency and that the town of Loughborough not be included in a cross-county boundary constituency with Nottinghamshire. This counter-proposal instead suggested Loughborough should be included with Shepshed and Sileby in a Loughborough constituency, and proposed a cross-county boundary Charnwood and Keyworth constituency that included wards from both Charnwood borough and Rushcliffe borough.

247. We received opposition to our proposed cross-county boundary Daventry and Lutterworth constituency with respondents indicating that the towns of Daventry and Lutterworth did not share any social, economic or transport links. A counter-proposal was received, which proposed that Rutland could be included with parts of Northamptonshire in a cross-county boundary constituency rather than Lutterworth.

Revised proposals

248. Having considered the evidence received, we decided to revise our initial proposals for parts of Leicestershire. We were persuaded by the evidence to retain the existing North West Leicestershire constituency, and to include Shepshed and The Wolds in a constituency with Loughborough named Loughborough and South Rushcliffe, as the evidence received suggested that this would improve road links in the constituency. We therefore considered the extent of consequential changes that should be made to other constituencies.
249. We were not persuaded by the arguments to include the southern part of Charnwood borough in the cross-county boundary constituency with parts of Rushcliffe. Consequently, we proposed a reconfigured Charnwood constituency that would include the Quorn and Mountsorrel Castle, and Barrow and Sileby West wards in the constituency. We considered that this configuration reflected the communities of Sileby and Mountsorrel. As a result of our changes for North West Leicestershire, we proposed that the Ratby, Bagworth and Thornton ward be included in the Bosworth constituency.
250. We considered the alternatives suggested for a cross-county boundary constituency between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire and were not persuaded by the arguments to include Rutland in a cross-county boundary constituency. We decided therefore not to revise our initial proposals for the constituencies of South Leicestershire, Harborough, Rutland and Melton, Daventry and Lutterworth, Leicester West, Leicester East, and Leicester South.

Consultation on the revised proposals

251. In response to the consultation on our revised proposals, we received support for our revised constituencies in Leicestershire, particularly our decision to retain the existing North West Leicestershire constituency and our revised Charnwood constituency. We also received some support for our Loughborough and South Rushcliffe constituency, particularly that transport links were improved by the inclusion of The Wolds ward. However, we did again receive some opposition to this constituency, with respondents considering that the areas included in the constituency shared few common interests.
252. We received some representations that suggested that the Harborough constituency should be named Harborough, Oadby and Wigston due to Oadby and Wigston being the major population centres, being administered by the local authority of the same name.

253. We also received opposition to our proposed Daventry and Lutterworth constituency with respondents considering that the two areas did not have any shared community identity. A counter-proposal was received that sought to reconfigure this cross-county boundary constituency. The counter-proposal suggested alternative constituencies for South Leicestershire, Charnwood, Harborough, Daventry and Lutterworth, and Rutland and Melton. Under this counter-proposal, the existing Rutland and Melton constituency would be retained, and the town of Market Harborough would be included in a new cross-county boundary constituency named Daventry and Market Harborough, instead of Lutterworth. Lutterworth would be included in a reconfigured Wigston and Lutterworth constituency.

Final recommendations

254. Having considered the evidence received, we are not persuaded to amend the boundaries of any of our proposed constituencies in Leicestershire. We are not persuaded by the arguments to include Market Harborough in the cross-county boundary constituency rather than Lutterworth. We note that this counter-proposal would result in consequential changes to a number of constituencies, for which we have received some support. We do not consider that any further compelling or new evidence has been provided that might justify changing the constitution of our revised proposals.
255. We do, however, consider that persuasive evidence has been received to revise the name of the Harborough constituency. We recognise that this constituency includes wards from Harborough district and all the wards that comprise Oadby and Wigston borough. To reflect this, we recommend this constituency be named Harborough, Oadby and Wigston.
256. Our final recommendations for Leicestershire are for constituencies of: Bosworth, Charnwood, Harborough, Oadby and Wigston, Leicester East, Leicester South, Leicester West, Loughborough and South Rushcliffe, Rutland and Melton, South Leicestershire, and North West Leicestershire. These constituencies are listed in Volume two and shown on the maps in Volume three of this report.

Northamptonshire

Initial proposals

257. Of the existing seven constituencies in Northamptonshire, only Daventry and Wellingborough are within the permitted electorate range. The other constituencies are all outside of the permitted electorate range. As previously detailed, in configuring our initial proposals we noted that Northamptonshire had to be grouped in a sub-region in order to formulate a pattern of constituencies that are all within the permitted electorate range. Therefore, as part of our initial proposals, we proposed that 14 wards from Daventry district and the two wards of Earls Barton, and Harrowden & Sywell from Borough of Wellingborough be included in the proposed cross-county boundary Daventry and Lutterworth constituency.
258. We noted that the existing Wellingborough constituency was within the permitted electorate range but we considered that retaining it unchanged would require a ward to be divided between constituencies and significant reconfigurations of all other constituencies in Northamptonshire. As part of our initial proposals, we proposed an alternative Wellingborough constituency. To increase

the electorate of the Kettering constituency, we suggested that it include the Finedon ward from the Borough of Wellingborough. To reduce the electorate of the Corby constituency, we proposed that it should no longer include the two wards covering Irthlingborough.

259. To increase the electorate of the Northampton South constituency, we proposed that it should include the Borough of Wellingborough wards of Wollaston and Bozeat, along with the two wards of Brafield and Yardley, and Hackleton from South Northamptonshire district. Within the Borough of Northampton we proposed that the Billing, Park, and Riverside wards be included in the Northampton North constituency to bring it within the permitted electorate range. Finally, we proposed a South Northamptonshire constituency that included 25 wards from the district and the two wards of Woodford and Weedon from Daventry district.

Consultation on the initial proposals

260. In response to the consultation on our initial proposals, we received significant opposition to our proposed Wellingborough constituency. Respondents considered that the existing Wellingborough constituency should be retained and objected to the wards of Bozeat, Earls Barton, Finedon, Wollaston, and Harrowden & Sywell being included in different constituencies. Counter-proposals were received that would retain the existing Wellingborough constituency, which involved consequential changes to the Kettering and Corby constituencies. Advocates of these counter-proposals suggested that either the Stanion & Corby Village ward, or part of this ward, be included in the Kettering constituency to bring it within the permitted electorate range. We received support for our proposed Corby constituency, albeit some respondents suggested that the constituency should be renamed Corby and East Northamptonshire to reflect the inclusion of East Northamptonshire district in the constituency.
261. Our proposed Northampton North constituency was largely supported but some respondents considered that some Northampton borough wards should be included in the Daventry and Lutterworth constituency. We received a mixture of support for and opposition to our proposed Northampton South and South Northamptonshire constituencies. As previously detailed, respondents opposed the inclusion of the Bozeat and Wollaston wards in the Northampton South constituency. Instead, counter-proposals were received suggesting that it was more appropriate to include the South Northamptonshire district wards of Harpole and Grange, and Grange Park in the Northampton South constituency. As part of this counter-proposal it was proposed that the Brafield and Yardley, and Hackleton wards should also be included in the South Northamptonshire constituency. As previously detailed, we received opposition to the inclusion of Daventry district wards in the cross-county boundary Daventry and Lutterworth constituency.

Revised proposals

262. Having considered the evidence received, we investigated alternative configurations to constituencies in Northamptonshire. We were not persuaded by the evidence to retain the existing Wellingborough constituency. We particularly felt that the case for dividing the Harrowden & Sywell ward, as proposed by some respondents, was neither exceptional nor compelling. However, we did consider whether the Bozeat, Finedon, and Wollaston wards could be included in the Wellingborough constituency.
263. We considered that persuasive evidence had not been received to include the Finedon ward in the Wellingborough constituency, particularly given the consequential changes required to the

Kettering constituency. As noted above, the counter-proposals were to include either the whole or part of the Stanion & Corby Village ward in the Kettering constituency. We considered that including all of the ward broke local ties between Corby and Corby Village and that an exceptional and compelling case had not been made to divide the ward. We noted that it was possible to include the Wollaston and Bozeat wards in the Wellingborough constituency and sought to do so by reconfiguring the Northampton South and South Northamptonshire constituencies.

264. We proposed that the wards of Brafield and Yardley, and Hackleton be included in the South Northamptonshire constituency, and the wards of Grange Park, and Harpole and Grange be included in the Northampton South constituency. We considered that the latter wards were close in geography and nature to the Northampton South constituency. We proposed no changes to the Daventry and Lutterworth, and Northampton North constituencies. As part of our revised proposals, we did not suggest any changes to the boundaries of the Corby constituency for the reasons outlined above, but we did propose that the constituency be renamed Corby and East Northamptonshire to reflect that it comprised wards from both local authorities.

Consultation on the revised proposals

265. In response to the consultation on our revised proposals, we did not receive any substantial counter-proposals for Northamptonshire, aside from those previously mentioned that proposed an alternative cross-county boundary constituency. Our decision not to retain the existing Wellingborough constituency was again opposed by respondents. Some supported the inclusion of the Bozeat and Wollaston wards in the revised constituency, but were still concerned that the Finedon ward had not been included. Additionally, some respondents from the Harrowden & Sywell ward opposed the revised proposals, suggesting that part of the ward should be included in the Wellingborough constituency. Other respondents commented on the title of the proposed constituency, considering the name Wellingborough and Rushden to be more suitable.
266. We also received some support for our revised proposals, particularly the proposed configuration and name of the Corby and East Northamptonshire constituency.

Final recommendations

267. We have again considered the evidence received in relation to retaining the existing Wellingborough constituency. We are not persuaded that an exceptional and compelling case has been made to divide either the Harrowden & Sywell or Stanion & Corby Village wards. Given that our revised proposals in Northamptonshire have generally been supported, we do not propose to modify any of the boundaries of our proposed constituencies.
268. However, we do consider that persuasive evidence has been received to modify the name of the Wellingborough constituency. Some respondents considered that, as the proposed constituency incorporated a large part of East Northamptonshire district, particularly the town of Rushden, the constituency name should reflect the configuration. We therefore recommend the constituency be named Wellingborough and Rushden.
269. Our final recommendations for Northamptonshire are for constituencies of: Corby and East Northamptonshire, Daventry and Lutterworth, Kettering, Northampton North, Northampton South, South Northamptonshire, and Wellingborough and Rushden. These constituencies are listed in Volume two and shown on the maps in Volume three of this report.

